

Minutes  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session, Monday, February 2, 2004, 9:30 a.m.

**Appointments**

Fireman's Relief Fund, VFD Trustees	443	02/02/04
Transportation Advisory Board	443	02/02/04

**Building Inspections Division**

Building Services Fee Schedule Revision	444	02/02/04
---	-----	----------

**Cable TV**

Charter Communications Cable TV Rate Increase	443	02/02/04
---	-----	----------

**Duke Power**

Presentation on Environmental Upgrade Projects - Marshall Steam Station	442	02/02/04
Lake Habitat Enhancement Program	442	02/02/04
Guest - Gary Laws, Duke Power Company	442	02/02/04

**Elections, Board of**

New voting equipment	442	02/02/04
----------------------	-----	----------

**Emergency Services**

New Fire Protection Agreement with Town of Maiden	451	02/02/04
Emergency Services Strategic Plan Update	451	02/02/04

**Fee Schedule**

Building Services Fee Schedule Revision	444	02/02/04
---	-----	----------

**Finance Department**

Hickory Public Schools Improvements (Jenkins Elementary School)	450	02/02/04
---	-----	----------

**Guests**

Gary Laws, Duke Power Company	442	02/02/04
-------------------------------	-----	----------

**Maiden, Town of**

New Fire Protection Agreement with Town of Maiden	451	02/02/04
---	-----	----------

**Proclamations**

NC Association of School Based/School Linked Health Centers Week	442	02/02/04
--	-----	----------

**Resolutions**

No. 2004-01, Support of A Statewide Initiative for Legislative and Funding Support for Enhanced and Improved Passenger Rail Service for the State of North Carolina	449	02/02/04
No. 2004-02, Authorizing Application for State Bond Grant/Loan Program	452	02/02/04

**Schools**

Hickory Public Schools Improvements (Jenkins Elementary School)	450	02/02/04
---	-----	----------

**Utilities and Engineering**

Building Services Fee Schedule Revision	444	02/02/04
Funding of additional waterlines for SECC Water Supply Loop Phase I, Hwy. 150	452	02/02/04
Resolution No. 2004-02, Authorizing Application for State Bond Grant/Loan Program	452	02/02/04
Water/Wastewater comments	453	02/02/04

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 2, 2004, 9:30 a.m., at the Christian Life Center, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 4136 Mount Pleasant Road, Sherrills Ford, North Carolina. (Note: The change from the Board's normal meeting place at the 1924 Courthouse was due to the Board holding four of its meetings in various areas around the County through 2004.)

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Absent: N/A

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, Assistant County Manager Joellen J. Daley, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Chair Barnes thanked Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church for hosting the Commissioners' meeting. She also thanked members of staff for displays and reported that the staff would be available for 30 minutes after the meeting for questions. Chair Barnes welcomed all citizens from the Sherrills Ford Community.
2. Commissioner Barger led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Invocation offered by Reverend Joseph M. Westfall, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church.
4. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session and closed session of Monday, January 20, 2004. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Recognition of Special Guests:

Chair Barnes recognized Gary Laws, Duke Power Company.

6. Public Comment for items not on the agenda:

Chair Barnes commented that there would be new voting equipment for the primary election.

Ms. Priscilla Perkins, Terrell, thanked the Board for meeting in her community and for advertising the meeting.

7. Presentation:

- a. Chair Barnes presented a NC Association of School Based/School Linked Health Centers Week Proclamation for February 22-28, 2004, to Jennifer McCracken, Nursing Supervisor.

Ms. McCracken said they celebrated their 10th year for adolescence health care in Catawba County and fifth year in partnership with Catawba Pediatrics. She said they would continue promoting the Totally Teens Program in the Catawba County Schools.

- b. Marshall Steam Station Plant Manager Tom Rawe gave a presentation on the Marshall Steam Station Environmental Upgrade Projects. Mr. Rawe gave the presentation at the Commissioners' September 2, 2003 meeting. Mr. Rawe answered several questions from citizens in the audience.
- c. Mr. Joe Hall, Duke Power, gave a brief presentation on the Lake Habitat Enhancement Program. He discussed funding and said the program was for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement creation and protection, a result of negotiations that have been on-going in developing a Shoreline Management Plan with the Wildlife Resource Agencies that started in 1996. He said Duke Power conducted the Shallow Water Fish Habitat Survey which surveyed the entire 1,750 miles of project shoreline from Lake James to Lake Wateree identifying the habitat types. They worked with resource agencies and developed lake use restrictions which resulted in 24 percent of the total shoreline being protected from most lake use permitting activities such as piers, stabilization and excavation. They initiated a process called the Shoreline Stabilization Technique Selection Process where Duke Power reviews shoreline stabilization and attempts to try to get property owners to use less hardening techniques, like

bioengineering and riparian over sea walls. They conducted two significant studies as a result of the habitat issues: 1) Woody Debris Study which compares woody debris with undeveloped shoreline and shoreline with piers and riparian; and 2) Fish Friendly Pier Study which looked at enhancing habitat of existing piers by creating structure under those piers such as brush. He said this was a partnership between Duke Power, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, SC Department of Natural Resources, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He said the Habitat Enhancement Program was filed in July 2002, approximately one year after Duke filed its Shoreline Management Plan Update. The Federal Energy Regulator Commission approved the Shoreline Management Plan in October 2003 and as a result 60 days after approval of that order, Duke initiated the Habitat Enhancement Program on December 15, 2003. Funds are generated from private pier applicants or commercial/residential marina applicants to build new facilities or rebuild or expand existing facilities. The fee payment is \$500 for a private pier and all funds are forwarded to the Foundation of the Carolinas who administers the program for Duke Power. He briefly reviewed the eligibility for the funds. From 2001-2003 they received 1,100 private pier applications and approximately 600 were in North Carolina.

d. Charter Cable TV Rate Increase.

Charter Communications Director of Government Affairs Anthony W. Barlage reviewed the rate increase to both Basic Service and Expanded Basic effective February 2004. Basic increased from \$12.95 to \$13.95 per month and full Expanded Basic increased from \$44.80 to \$47.75 per month. He briefly reviewed the tiers, channels and services.

FCC changes in 1996 eliminated rate regulation by local government, but still left in place processes through the FCC which cable providers must follow to receive basic tier rate increases. Therefore, the FCC prohibits Catawba County and other local governments from regulating rates. Charter Communications has followed the FCC process to increase basic tier rates by \$1.00 per month. The County entered into a 12-year franchise agreement with Charter Communications in February of 1995. The focus of the County's franchise is that Charter must provide service to all residential customers where density is equal to or greater than 15 homes per mile. Staff is familiar with one area of the County (Mt. Olive Church Road), which is required to have cable service per the ordinance, and Charter is proceeding with build out to be completed in the second quarter of 2004.

Several citizens said the notices were difficult to understand. There were several complaints from commissioners and citizens about the 24-hour service center. Mr. Barlage said he would work to address the problems and requested that the Commissioners contact him with specific issues. Mr. Barlage said service is their biggest issue of the over six million total subscribers. He will report the service issue and report back to Assistant County Manager Mick Berry.

8. Appointments:

**Fireman's Relief Fund, VFD Trustees**

Commissioner Beatty nominated the following for 2-year terms, which will expires January 1, 2006:

Walter Cornwell, St. Stephens Fire Department, fourth term  
Foy R. Huss, Cooksville Fire Department, fourth term  
Jimmie W. Leatherman, Mountain View Fire Department, fourth term  
Billie Leonhardt, Propst Fire Department, fourth term  
Jerry Loy Sigmon, Oxford Fire Department, fourth term  
Eddie White, Sherrills Ford Fire Department, fourth term

Commissioner Beatty nominated Jeffery Drum, 3844 Little Mountain Road, Newton as a Bandy's Fire Department Trustee for a first term replacing Stanly Stewart. The 2-year term expires January 1, 2006.

**Transportation Advisory Board**

Commissioner Beatty nominated Cynthia "Cindy" McGinnis, Piedmont Wagon Director, to fill the unexpired term of Michael Bradshaw (Urban Transit Providers Category). The term expires March 14, 2005.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the aforementioned appointments. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following consent agenda items:

a. Building Services Fee Schedule Revision.

Expired Permit Renewal Fee

Justification: During the initial meeting of the Building Advisory Committee it was mentioned that numerous construction projects have stalled due to business and property owners waiting for certain economic conditions that would warrant construction growth. Currently state law requires permits to expire six months after the date of issuance if the work authorized by the permit has not commenced. If after commencement the work is discontinued for a period of 12 months, the permit immediately expires. Currently all expired permits are subject to a full permit fee for renewal. It was the committee's consensus that this fee places an economic burden on a project that is ready to rebound as it is currently permitted. During the past two quarterly meetings of the Building Advisory Committee, members discussed recommendations to amend the current fee schedule to provide a reduced fee for renewal of permits that have expired. The Committee recommendation is to allow renewal of expired building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical permits at the minimum rate identified by the fee schedule in effect at time of permit renewal. Example under current fee schedule: The fee for all construction permits (building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical) required for a 10,000 square foot office building is \$2,415.00. If these permits expired they would be renewed for the same fee of \$2,415.00, unless there were fee increases between the time of original issuance and renewal. Example under proposed fee schedule change: The fee for all construction permits (building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical) required for a 10,000 square foot office building is \$2,415.00. If these permits expired they would be renewed for \$258.00. Fee Rate: The renewal fees for all construction (building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical) are proposed at the current minimum fee: Building - \$84.00, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical - \$58.00 respectively. The Building Advisory Committee recommended a three-year sunset clause in order to re-evaluate the local state of economy.

Express Plan Review Fee

Justification: Express plan review is one of the recommendations staff received during the Stakeholders meetings prior to the merger between the City of Hickory and Catawba County Building Inspections Departments. Members of the development community recommended that a program and fee similar to Mecklenburg County be developed in Catawba County for those customers that have a need for an accelerated plan review process. The proposed fee parallels the fee charged in Mecklenburg County for express plan review. Express Plan Review fees are required to cover additional expenses incurred delivering service such as personnel and overtime hours, and to provide adequate funding to maintain our existing and current level of customer service. Fee Rate: \$950.00 an hr. for exterior work, \$800.00 an hr. for interior work

Off Duty Inspection Fee

Justification: Building Services has been experiencing requests for inspections after normal working hours. Currently the County's fee schedule does not recognize this service. Prior to the merger, the Hickory Building Inspection Department provided this service for a fee of \$100.00 dollars per hour or fraction thereof. This policy, along with the fee, was adopted in Hickory due to the high volume of commercial construction contractors requesting weekend inspections. Staff recommended a fee schedule revision to conduct off duty inspections in an effort to provide the same level of service experienced in Hickory prior to the merger. Fee Rate: \$100.00 an hour or fraction thereof

Temporary Electric (by agreement) & Temporary Mechanical (by agreement)

Justification: During FY 02-03 the County Building Inspection Department updated the County Fee Schedule to mirror the City of Hickory's fee schedule. However, the residential fee schedule did not include temporary electric fees and temporary mechanical fees for residential construction. Staff recommended updating the residential fee schedule with the identical language that appears on the commercial fee schedule.

Fee Rate: Temporary Electrical (by agreement)	\$115.00
Monthly renewal fee for Temporary Electrical agreement	\$45.00
Temporary Mechanical (by agreement)	\$115.00
Monthly renewal fee for Temporary Mechanical agreement	\$45.00

Staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners revise the current Building Services Fee Schedule for residential and commercial building construction based on the aforementioned justifications, effective February 3, 2004, with a three-year sunset clause on Expired Permit Renewal Fee.

**CATAWBA COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTION  
RESIDENTIAL FEE SCHEDULE**

**Effective February 3, 2004**

Retrip fee for any type of inspection.....	\$115.00
Minimum Building Permit .....	84.00
Mobile Home Permit (inspection includes steps, decks, skirting, setup only).....	68.00
Deck Permit .....	63.00
<u>Off Duty Inspection .....</u>	<u>\$100.00 per hour or any fraction thereof</u>
Archive Research (per project).....	21.00
Work started without permit.....	Double Permit Fee
<u>Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....</u>	<u>84.00</u>
Refunds on Active Permits (only if no inspections have been made)	
Less Administration Cost .....	25.00
Change of any contractor (owner must remain the same).....	25.00

If owner changes full rates will apply to all permits.

Projects that involve construction of both an addition and alterations will require 2 separate permits.

**NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND ADDITIONS**

Permit fees for building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits shall be determined by multiplying the total gross building floor area (includes heated and unheated under roof) by the fee per square foot from the table below (with a minimum building permit fee of \$84.00 and a minimum permit fee of \$58.00 for all associated trade permits).

<b>*Building</b>	<b>Electrical</b>	<b>Plumbing</b>	<b>Heating</b>	<b>A.C.</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$0.112	\$0.049	\$0.049	\$0.025	\$0.025	\$0.26

\*The Building Permits will be affected by \$10.00 surcharge effective August 1, 2003 as mandated by Senate Bill 321 - "Homeowners Recovery Fund" (G.S. 87-15.b)

**ALTERATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL**

Alterations, Repairs to Existing Structure, Residential Accessory (permit required for building exceeding 12 ft in any dimension), Picnic Shelter, Pole Shed, Detached Garage, Demolition (max. 30 day cleanup), Private Piers, Swimming Pools, etc. based on contractors estimate and using the fee schedule below with a minimum building permit fee of \$84.00.

\$0-5000 .....	\$84.00
\$5001-100,000.....	\$84.00 PLUS \$3.00 for each additional thousand or part thereof
100,001-1,000,000 .....	\$369.00 PLUS \$2.50 for each additional thousand or part thereof
over \$1,000,000 .....	\$2619.00 PLUS \$1.50 for each additional thousand or part thereof

**ELECTRICAL FEE SCHEDULE**

**POWER SERVICE-SUB PANEL**

0 - 100 AMPS.....	\$68.00
101 - 200 AMPS.....	100.00
201 - 400 AMPS.....	137.00
401 - 600 AMPS.....	168.00
601 - 1000 AMPS.....	205.00
1001 - 2000 AMPS.....	268.00
2001 - 3000 AMPS.....	299.00

3001 - 4000 AMPS .....	336.00
4001 - ABOVE AMPS.....	399.00
Electrical for Mechanical Unit (change out) .....	37.00
Electrical for Water Heater (change out) .....	37.00
Temporary Saw Pole .....	37.00
Electrical Service for Mobile Home .....	42.00
Electrical Permit for Modular .....	58.00
Electrical Service for Recreational Vehicle in an Approved Park .....	42.00
Load Control Devices (per dwelling unit).....	42.00
Temporary Electrical (by agreement) .....	115.00
Monthly renewal fee for Temporary Electrical agreement .....	45.00
Pole Service / Based on Power Service Size (AMPS) .....	Based on AMP chart above
Service Repair due to Damage.....	58.00
Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....	58.00
MINIMUM PERMIT FEE FOR ALL UNCLASSIFIED INSTALLATIONS .....	58.00

### **MECHANICAL FEE SCHEDULE**

*Heat Pump, Apollo Unit, Gas Pac, or Furnace with A.C. ....	\$84.00
*Furnace, Air Conditioner, or Unit Heater .....	42.00
*Radiant Heat Systems, Wall Furnace, Unit Heater, Fireplace Insert, Gas Light, Gas Grill, Chiller, Air Handler, etc. (gas line inspection fee included if checked at same time unit is inspected and installed by same contractor) .....	42.00
*Boiler .....	58.00
*These fees apply to each of the first (2) systems at one location; each additional system will be.....	37.00
Water Heater (change out).....	42.00
Gas Logs .....	42.00
This fee applies to the first gas log unit at one location; each additional unit will be .....	25.00
Gas Line .....	37.00
Mechanical Unit for Mobile Home .....	42.00
Mechanical Permit for Modular.....	58.00
Temporary Mechanical (by agreement).....	115.00
Monthly renewal fee for Temporary Mechanical agreement .....	45.00
Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....	58.00
MINIMUM PERMIT FEE FOR ALL UNCLASSIFIED INSTALLATIONS .....	58.00

### **PLUMBING FEE SCHEDULE**

First Toilet Room.....	\$84.00
Each Additional Full Toilet Room or Partial (include future toilet rooms) .....	42.00
Gas Line .....	37.00
Water Heater (change out).....	42.00
Plumbing System for Mobile Home .....	42.00
Plumbing Permit for Modular .....	58.00
Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....	58.00
MINIMUM PERMIT FEE FOR ALL UNCLASSIFIED INSTALLATIONS .....	58.00

**\*\*FEES WILL BE ASSESSED AND COLLECTED ON ALL PERMITS WHEN ISSUED\*\***

### **CATAWBA COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTION COMMERCIAL FEE SCHEDULE**

**Effective February 3, 2004**

Retrip fee for any type of inspection.....	\$115.00
Minimum Building Permit .....	84.00
Modular Office Building.....	84.00
Deck Permit .....	See alterations fee schedule on reverse side
Off Duty Inspection .....	\$100.00 per hour or any fraction thereof

Safety Inspections (based on square footage)	
0-5,000 .....	75.00
5,001-10,000 .....	115.00
10,001-50,000 .....	155.00
over 50,001 .....	195.00
Archive Research (per project) .....	21.00
Work started without permit .....	Double Permit Fee
Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....	84.00
Refunds on Active Permits (only if no inspections have been made)	
Less Administration Cost .....	25.00
Change of any contractor (owner must remain the same) .....	25.00
If owner changes full minimum fee rates will apply to all permits.	
Projects that involve construction of both an addition and alterations will require 2 separate permits.	

### PLAN REVIEW

First submittal .....	No Fee
Second submittal if items are not addressed from first review .....	\$50.00
Third submittal if items are not addressed from second review .....	100.00
Fourth submittal if items are not addressed from third review .....	150.00
Fifth submittal if items are not addressed from fourth review .....	200.00
Contracted Services .....	75.00 per hour plus reimbursable expenses
Express Plan Review (Interior Work) .....	\$800.00 per hour or any fraction thereof
Express Plan Review (Exterior Work) .....	\$950.00 per hour or any fraction thereof
<b>ALL FEES CHARGED FROM SCHEDULE ABOVE ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE NEXT SUBMITTAL</b>	

### NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND ADDITIONS

Permit fees for building (including accessory structures that exceed 400 sq ft), electrical, plumbing, and mechanical shall be determined by using the following computations:

A = Total Gross Building Floor Area of Construction

B = Fee per Square Foot (from table below)

Total Gross Building Floor Area  
of Construction (square feet)

Fee Computation

0 - 5000	A x B	= Permit Fee
5001 - 15000	(A x B x .75)+ (1250 x B)=	Permit Fee
15001 and above	(A x B x .50)+ (5000 x B)=	Permit Fee

Occupancy	Building General	Electrical	Plumbing	Heating	A.C.	Total
Assembly	\$0.106	\$0.047	\$0.042	\$0.025	\$0.025	\$0.245
Business	\$0.097	\$0.061	\$0.042	\$0.038	\$0.038	\$0.276
Educational	\$0.113	\$0.056	\$0.042	\$0.034	\$0.034	\$0.279
Factory/ Industrial	\$0.060	\$0.025	\$0.025	\$0.016*	\$0.016	\$0.142
Hazardous	\$0.060	\$0.016	\$0.016	\$0.016	\$0.016	\$0.124
Institutional	\$0.175	\$0.089	\$0.089	\$0.047	\$0.047	\$0.447
Mercantile	\$0.076	\$0.042	\$0.034	\$0.025	\$0.025	\$0.202
Residential (other than new dwelling units)	\$0.112	\$0.049	\$0.049	\$0.025	\$0.025	\$0.260
Storage	\$0.047	\$0.016	\$0.016	\$0.016*	\$0.016	\$0.111

<u>Utility</u>	<u>See Alterations Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------------------

\*Includes office cooling

### PHASED CONSTRUCTION

Footing/Foundation permit .....Fee based on total square footage at 50 percent of fee  
 Shell In permit.....Fee based on total square footage at 100 percent of fee  
 Upfit permit .....Fee based on total square footage at 50 percent of fee

### ALTERATIONS FOR MULTI FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

Alterations, Repairs to Existing Structure, Residential Accessory (permit required for building exceeding 12 ft in any dimension), Commercial Accessory (0-400 sq ft), Utility Occupancies, Picnic Shelter, Pole Shed, Detached Garage, Demolition (max. 30 day cleanup), Private Piers, Swimming Pools, Signs (permit required for each sign), etc. based on contractors estimate and using the fee schedule below with a minimum building permit fee of \$84.00.

\$0-5000 .....\$84.00  
 \$5001-100,000.....\$84.00 PLUS \$3.00 for each additional thousand or part thereof  
 \$100,001-1,000,000 .....\$369.00 PLUS \$2.50 for each additional thousand or part thereof  
 over \$1,000,000 .....\$2619.00 PLUS \$1.50 for each additional thousand or part thereof

### ELECTRICAL FEE SCHEDULE

#### POWER SERVICE-SUB PANEL

0 - 100 AMPS.....\$68.00  
 101 - 200 AMPS.....100.00  
 201 - 400 AMPS.....137.00  
 401 - 600 AMPS.....168.00  
 601 - 1000 AMPS.....205.00  
 1001 - 2000 AMPS .....268.00  
 2001 - 3000 AMPS .....299.00  
 3001 - 4000 AMPS .....336.00  
 4001 - ABOVE AMPS.....399.00  
 Electrical for Mechanical Unit (change out) .....37.00  
 Electrical for Water Heater (change out) .....37.00  
 Temporary Saw Pole.....37.00  
 Electrical Permit for Modular .....58.00  
 Load Control Devices (per dwelling unit).....42.00  
 Temporary Electrical (by agreement) .....115.00  
 Monthly renewal fee for Temporary Electrical agreement .....45.00  
 Sign Service / Based on Power Service Size (AMPS) ..... Based on AMP chart above  
 Pole Service / Based on Power Service Size (AMPS) .....Based on AMP chart above  
 Fire Alarm System for New Construction and Additions .....115.00  
 Fire Alarm System for an Existing Building .....68.00  
Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....58.00  
 MINIMUM PERMIT FEE FOR ALL UNCLASSIFIED INSTALLATIONS .....58.00

### MECHANICAL FEE SCHEDULE

\*Heat Pump, Apollo Unit, Gas Pac, or Furnace with A.C. ....\$84.00  
 \*Furnace, Air Conditioner, or Unit Heater .....42.00  
 \*Radiant Heat Systems, Wall Furnace, Unit Heater, Fireplace Insert, Gas Light,  
 Gas Grill, Chiller, Air Handler, etc. (gas line inspection fee included  
 if checked at same time unit is inspected and installed by same  
 contractor) .....42.00  
 \*Boiler .....58.00  
 \*These fees apply to each of the first (2) systems at one location; each  
 additional system will be.....37.00  
 Water Heater (change out).....42.00  
 Gas Logs .....42.00  
 This fee applies to the first gas log unit at one location; each additional  
 unit will be .....25.00



Gas Line .....	37.00
Mechanical Permit for Modular .....	58.00
Temporary Mechanical (by agreement) .....	115.00
Monthly renewal fee for Temporary Mechanical agreement .....	45.00
<u>Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....</u>	<u>58.00</u>
MINIMUM PERMIT FEE FOR ALL UNCLASSIFIED INSTALLATIONS .....	58.00

### **PLUMBING FEE SCHEDULE**

First Toilet Room .....	\$84.00
Each Additional Full Toilet Room or Partial (include future toilet rooms) .....	42.00
Gas Line .....	37.00
Water Heater (change out) .....	42.00
Fire Sprinkler system for New Construction and Additions .....	115.00
Fire Sprinkler system for an Existing Building .....	68.00
Plumbing Permit for Modular .....	58.00
<u>Expired Permit Renewal Fee .....</u>	<u>58.00</u>
MINIMUM PERMIT FEE FOR ALL UNCLASSIFIED INSTALLATIONS .....	58.00

**\*\*FEES WILL BE ASSESSED AND COLLECTED ON ALL PERMITS WHEN ISSUED\*\***

- b. Resolution in Support of a Statewide Initiative for Legislative and Funding Support for Enhanced and Improved Passenger Rail Service for the State of North Carolina.

The Western Carolina Rail Corridor Committee has received resolutions of support from over 70 city and county governments, metropolitan and rural planning organizations, and chambers of commerce across the state. The resolutions will be presented to the North Carolina General Assembly. Several state senators and representatives have indicated their willingness to champion the resolution in the Transportation Committee and in the General Assembly as a whole. Staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt the following resolution in support of a statewide initiative for legislative and funding support for enhanced and improved passenger rail service for the State of North Carolina.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2004-01**

#### **Resolution in Support of A Statewide Initiative for Legislative and Funding Support for Enhanced and Improved Passenger Rail Service for the State of North Carolina**

WHEREAS, passenger rail service is an integral part of a comprehensive transportation system for the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, economic development, tourism and job creation will benefit through the enhancement of a passenger rail system that serves the citizens of North Carolina and visitors to our state; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the state of North Carolina for development of comprehensive intercity rail services in urban jurisdictions throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, there is a vital need to provide a balanced transportation system both statewide and nationwide as demonstrated in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, tragedies; and

WHEREAS, an increase in state funding for passenger rail service in North Carolina is necessary to support development of intercity rail services that can connect our small urban and rural areas of the state with the urbanized centers of our state; and

WHEREAS, support by local and state elected officials is essential for the future of alternative transportation in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, support and utilization of transportation improvements by business and commercial interests is essential for the successful deployment of alternative transportation modes in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is a vehicle to express the unified support of communities and chambers of commerce throughout North Carolina for increased statewide funding for passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS, rail linkages between communities and regions within North Carolina establish and strengthen social, historical, commercial and cultural bonds; and

WHEREAS, the average return on investment for the surrounding community for station revitalizations throughout North Carolina is more than one dollar for every dollar invested; and

WHEREAS, the associated improvements to rail facilities will increase the efficiency and safety of rail service, help attract new freight traffic and provide environmental benefits by reducing the impact of truck traffic on North Carolina's highways and by reducing harmful emissions; and

WHEREAS, an integrated passenger rail system will enhance accessibility and reliability for key military locations and ports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, through the adoption of this resolution, fully supports the creation of a comprehensive passenger rail system to serve the state of North Carolina, with its ultimate objective to further economic opportunity, help preserve the environment, improve the quality of life and enhance public health, safety and welfare for all citizens, communities and regions.

Adopted this 2nd day of February, 2004.

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Attest:  
/s/ Thelda B. Rhoney  
County Clerk

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Reports:

a. Finance Department:

1. Hickory Public Schools Improvements.

Hickory Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Duane Kirkman said on December 15, 2003, the Board of Commissioners approved several canopy projects for Hickory City Schools at Southwest, Long View and Oakwood Elementary and Northview Middle Schools in the amount of \$236,674. An additional canopy project is needed at Jenkins Elementary School. At Jenkins Elementary, due to the way it was built, and where the office is currently located, it is easy for the public to enter the school without being noticed by the appropriate school personnel. For this reason, the decision was made to relocate the office and enclose the breezeway so that any visitation to the school could be monitored and secured for the safety of the students. Bids were received from three companies: R & G Construction (\$578,318), Streamline Construction (\$613,200) and White Fox Construction (\$457,334). White Fox was selected as the low bidder for a total project cost of \$504,201, including architect fees and contingency. In the current budget, \$65,000 is allocated to relocate the office at Jenkins and funds in the amount of \$78,576 are available from a previous Jenkins project. The balance of \$360,625 will be funded from interest on bond proceeds in the 1997 School Bond Fund. There is approximately \$675,000 in unspent interest, with over \$625,000 allocated to Hickory City Schools. A budget amendment was approved by the Hickory City Board of Education on January 12, 2004. Staff recommended that the Board appropriate \$360,625 in interest from the 1997 Bond Fund to fund improvements at Jenkins Elementary School.

427-750100-995420	Transfer to Schools Capital	\$360,625
427-780050-680300	Interest on Investments	\$360,625
420-750050-695427	Trfr from 97 School Bond Fund	\$360,625
420-750100-32105-3-05	Jenkins – Office Relocation	\$360,625

Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the aforementioned transfer of funds. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Emergency Services:

1. New Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Maiden. (Copy of agreement on file in the Catawba County Fire Marshal's Office.)

Emergency Services Director David Weldon said in Mid 2003, officials from the Maiden Fire Department met with Mr. Keith McLeod of the NC Department of Insurance to review their upcoming fire department rating inspection. After reviewing the records, Mr. McLeod informed the Department that if it continued to operate the municipal fire department and have a rural fire department chartered separately, then they would have to change various parts of their operation. The Maiden Fire Department would need to add over 20 additional members, designate certain trucks for rural response, and dispatch with a separate tone and announcement and this would involve a significant increase in operating expenses and difficulty in staffing. Mr. McLeod's suggestion to the Maiden Fire Department was to consider the dissolution of the Maiden Rural Fire Department, Inc., and contract the rural area with the Maiden Fire Department. After discussions with both the Maiden Town Council and the Maiden Rural Fire Department Board, it was agreed that the dissolution of the rural fire department was the proper way to correct the issue. Both the Maiden Town Council and the Maiden Rural Fire Department governing bodies met and approved the dissolution of the rural fire department and an agreement providing that the Town of Maiden assume all responsibilities for fire protection for the rural part of the fire district. The Articles of Dissolution request were submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State and approved on December 12, 2003, to take effect January 1, 2004. The new contract was approved by the Maiden Town Council at its January 19, 2004, meeting. There are no changes in the fire district boundaries. There will be no reduction in quality or response times. Maiden Fire department will continue to provide quality fire protection to both the municipal and rural fire district. Staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve an agreement with the Town of Maiden to provide fire protection to the rural fire district as a result of the dissolution of the Maiden Rural Fire District, Inc., approved by the NC Department of the Secretary of State on December 12, 2003.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve a Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Maiden. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Emergency Services Strategic Plan Update.

Assistant County Manager Mick Berry introduced Telecommunications Administrator Jerry Boggs and Radio Telecommunicator Mark Wireman and briefly described their job duties. Mr. Berry said seven telecommunicators were added at a cost of \$355,000 per year. There is only one 911 Call Center in Catawba County that operates for the entire county. The dispatchers handle all emergency calls for all agencies with the exception of the Hickory Police Department and the County forwards those 911 calls to Hickory. A goal is to get the call out within 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. They map 95 percent of all calls received. There was a 50 percent increase in 911 calls from 2000 to 2003. Total calls per year is approximately 300,000 which is an average of 34 calls per hour.

Emergency Services Director David Weldon said the board adopted a set of goals for emergency services. The Board authorized a funding source to take 1 penny property tax from the water and sewer fund which generated \$1.2 million. Other funding sources were general revenue funds in the amount of \$300,000, and Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement increases in the amount of \$600,000. Countywide medical response time is four minutes and they used a 6-minute response time as a benchmark. He said 95.80 percent of emergency calls are responded to by Medical First Responders and in 2003 they responded to 7,181 calls. Previously the First Responders were responding to 64 percent of calls. It cost \$240,000 for the first responder program. The County has a goal of 8 minutes for ambulance/paramedic response time and the average system-wide is 7.23 minutes. An ambulance is now station in Sherrills Ford and Propst at a cost of approximately \$340,000. There will soon be a third ambulance stationed at Slanting Bridge Road/Hwy 150. The Oxford Base (which includes Oxford Fire, Catawba County EMS, and Claremont Rescue) should be complete March 2004 and includes \$558,000 for outfitting the base, equipment and eight

paramedics. Emergency Services has a goal for the best long-term use of facilities, equipment and personnel by reducing duplication and improving efficiency. They have teams such as high level rescue concept and they take available resources and develop specialty teams to incidence that occur with 10 percent of the call volume time. Not all rescue squads are the same and they have three heavy rescue squads strategically placed around the county and then back up with light rescue squads in other areas. All ambulances are standardized throughout the county. A rescue squad coordinator was hired. The Emergency Services Planning Committee is an advisory committee with stakeholders that provide emergency services within Catawba County and are also working with Homeland Security and federal grants, hazardous materials team, and a regional bioterrorism plan.

c. Utilities and Engineering Department:

1. Funding of Additional Water Lines for SECC Water Supply Loop Phase I (Hwy 150).

Utilities and Engineering Director Barry B. Edwards said on December 1, 2003, the Board approved the bid award to Ronny Turner Construction Co., Inc. for the installation of approximately 58,000 linear feet of 8-inch, 12-inch, and 16-inch waterlines complete with valves, hydrants and related appurtenances in the amount of \$2,046,094, which includes \$22,241 for 700 feet of 12-inch waterline to serve Sherrills Ford EMS, Fire and Rescue base. In addition \$46,200 to McGill Associates for construction, observation and engineering services associated with the project and \$10,000 for right-of-way and temporary easement acquisitions. Staff was directed to evaluate other lines independently considering County Policy, Codes, available funds, past practices, and grant opportunities, and report findings to the Board no later than February 2, 2004. The contractor agreed to hold the same unit pricing for 3 months from November 25, 2003. Staff has determined that the estimated cost for the waterline extension to serve Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church is \$94,000. Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church has agreed to cover the costs associated with the tap and meter (\$2,856), County capital fee (\$750), and a portion of the line extension cost (\$6,394). At this time, staff does not recommend waterline extensions or funding for Bach Drive, Emerald Isle Drive or Tuttlewood Drive, the contaminated area, with Board approval. Staff along with McGill Associates, PA will apply for a Clean Water Bond Grant to cover the costs of these waterline extensions. Staff recommended that the Board adopt a resolution for application submittal for a Clean Water Bond Grant. Staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the following:

1. Approve additional funding for a water line extension of the SECC Water Supply Loop Phase I to serve Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in the amount of \$94,000.
2. Approve the following budget revision in the amount of \$94,000:

Supplemental Appropriation			
230-170020-995415	\$94,000	230-170020-690100	\$94,000
To Water and Sewer Construction		Fund Balance Applied	
415-431100-861500-21015	\$94,000	415-430050-695230	\$94,000
SECC Water Supply Loop Phase I		From Water & Sewer Reserves	
Total \$188,000		Total \$188,000	

3. Adopt the following resolution for grant submittal for Bach Drive, Emerald Isle Drive and Tuttlewood Drive.

**Resolution 2004-02**  
**Resolution Authorizing Application for State Bond Grant/Loan Program**

WHEREAS, the Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987, Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, and the North Carolina Clean Water Revolving Loan and Grant Act of 1987 have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of wastewater treatment works, wastewater collection systems, and water supply systems, and

WHEREAS, Catawba County has need for water and wastewater projects described as the Bach Water Project; and

WHEREAS, Catawba County intends to request state grant and/or loan assistance for these projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CATAWBA COUNTY:

That Catawba County will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the projects, if approved for a State grant and/or loan award.

That Catawba County will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the projects a schedule of fees and charges which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of Catawba County agrees to include in the grant and/or loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of Catawba County to make scheduled repayment of the grant and/or loan, to withhold from Catawba County any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the grant and/or loan.

That Catawba County will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the projects on completion of construction thereof.

That Barry B. Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Catawba County with the State of North Carolina for a grant and/or loan to aid in the construction of the projects described above.

That Barry B. Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the projects: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That Catawba County has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the projects and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 2nd day of February, 2004.

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve additional funding for a waterline extension of the SECC Water Supply Loop Phase I to serve Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in the amount of \$94,000, approve the aforementioned budget revision in the amount of \$94,000; and adopt the aforementioned resolution for grant submittal for Bach Drive, Emerald Isle Drive, and Tuttlewood Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beatty requested that Mr. Edwards give an update on the waterline.

Mr. Edwards said they would be holding two informational meetings and hopefully one at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and one meeting at Sherrills Ford Elementary School. It will take approximately one year to complete the project, which will be broken down into two parts. He said Hwy. 150 is a very busy highway and in order to complete the project one lane on Hwy. 150 will have to be closed at times for installation of the waterlines. Residents for the first part of the project will be getting a mailing within the next two weeks. He announced that for citizens located on Hwy 150, Sherrills Ford Road, East Maiden Road, Mt. Pleasant Road, it would be less expensive to tap onto the waterline during construction because the County's capital fee is half price \$500 instead of \$1,000, plus there is a \$1,726 tap and meter fee.

Ms. Sara Scherr asked about wastewater in the Sherrills Ford area. Mr. Edwards said he had worked with the County for nine years and has studied the wastewater issue in Sherrills Ford and there are a lot of issues. He said McGill and Associates is currently studying wastewater in the area.

A gentleman in the audience asked about Catawba County taking over Lincoln County waterlines in an area on Hwy 16. Mr. Edwards said he had met with Lincoln County but no agreement has been met. Ultimately, Catawba County would like to serve its customers so its citizens will not have to pay double rates.

Chair Barnes requested that all staff stand and introduce themselves.

11. Attorneys' Report. None.
12. Manager's Report. None.
13. Other items of business. None.
14. Adjournment.

At 11:25 a.m., there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

---

Katherine W. Barnes  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

---

Thelda B. Rhoney  
County Clerk